

THE BAY



The Bay Region:

- *The Bay region is the fourth largest metropolitan area in the United States and the second largest in California, with water supply reliability and drinking water quality issues becoming even more challenging in the future.*
- *The Bay and adjoining Delta comprise the West Coast's largest estuary.*
- *The Bay region drains more than 40 percent of the state's water.*
- *The Bay has lost over 75 percent of its vital wetlands.*

Innovative Partnerships

- **Integrated Regional Water Management Planning in the Bay Area:** Water districts, storm water management agencies, sanitation districts, and cities and counties around the Bay are exploring the development of an integrated regional water management plan.
- **Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Task Force and Bay Area Water Forum:** Local elected officials and elected water district board members established a task force in 2000 to promote the Bay-Delta program in the Bay Area. In 2004, this group began to meet as the Bay Area Water Forum to better include business and environmental groups as they focus on developing concerns on water management issues such as the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.
- **Bay Area Water Agencies Coalition (BAWAC):** Seven Bay Area water agencies joined together in 2002 to improve coordination and cooperation so they work to meet the region's water quality and supply reliability challenges.

Regional Priorities And Issues

- Improve ecosystem health in the San Francisco Bay and its tributary watersheds to contribute to the overall resilience of the Bay-Delta estuary.
- Improve drinking water quality across the region by continuing to meet and exceed current drinking water standards.
- Improve water supply reliability across the region to protect the environment and public health as well as economic health and quality of life.

Statewide Benefits

Many actions taken in the Bay benefit other regions. These include:

- Improving regional cooperation on water quality improvements can help take pressure off Delta diversions during droughts and other emergencies.
- Restoring wetlands in the Bay contributes to improved overall health of the estuary.
- Improving water quality in the Bay and its watersheds help support healthy anadromous fish populations.
- Constructing Los Vaqueros expansion can provide statewide benefits by contributing water and storage for the Environmental Water Account.

Regional Accomplishments



Water Supply Reliability

- \$3 million invested in five local projects to improve groundwater management and expand conjunctive use in the Bay and Delta regions, with a potential water supply yield of 365 acre-feet annually.
- The Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program was included in the federal CALFED authorization bill.
- In March 2004, voters in Contra Costa County approved a ballot measure to move forward on Los Vaqueros reservoir expansion studies.
- \$2.4 million invested in eight local projects to study and expand groundwater storage.
- Significant progress made on studies for proposed expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir. The project is one of five surface water storage options under evaluation to add storage capacity and flexibility to the water system.
- Feasibility studies are underway on San Luis Low Point Improvement Project to address water quality and conveyance issues for South Bay water users.
- \$15.7 million invested in 35 local agricultural and urban water conservation programs.
- \$43 million in water recycling grants awarded to increase water recycling by 3,500 acre-feet a year.



Water Quality

- More than \$19 million invested in 21 projects including implementation of best management practices in the Delta and along the North Bay and South Bay Aqueducts, the development of a Delta regional drinking water quality management plan, support for the development and construction of continuous monitoring stations at key Delta locations.
- Funding provided for the Bay Area Water Quality/Water Supply Reliability Project, which will be completed in 2005 and the regional planning is transitioning over to a local stakeholder group.



Ecosystem Restoration and Watershed Management

- 30 projects supported with more than \$16.2 million in funds for community organizations to do watershed assessments, citizen monitoring and carry out restoration activities on watersheds in the Bay and Delta regions.
- \$177 million invested in 145 local ecosystem projects, including 35 shallow water tidal and marsh habitat restoration. Recently funded projects include two ecosystem water quality studies: one investigating mercury cycling in Petaluma River and one investigating the bioaccumulation of methylmercury in birds and its effects on their reproduction.
- Funding provided for 6 watershed coordinators to assist with community-based management efforts within the region.